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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 /066 W
---------- 102071 /14
R 230415Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289
INFO CG USAGO MACHINATO
CG 313 AD/18TFW KADENA AFB
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
CG MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
OAC CAMP BUTLER
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB
CG 5TH AF YOKOTA JAPAN
CG USARJCAMP ZAMA JAPAN
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN
CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HAWAII
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HAWAII
COMMARCORBASEPAC CAMP SMITH HAWAII
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3900 C O N F I D E N T I A L
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ARMY SUPPORT MISSIONS TO OTHER SERVICES
ON OKINAWA
STATE PASS DEFENSE
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
1. SUMMARY. US ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR REALIGNMENT IN FORCE
STRUCTURE ON OKINAWA HAS RECEIVED LIMITED AND ON WHOLE FAVORABLE
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REACTION, DUE TO POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AND SKILLFUL MANNER IN
WHICH US MILITARY SERVICES HAVE HANDLED THIS DIFFICULT
PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.
2. USFJ ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS FOR TRANSFER OF MEDICAL AND
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT MISSIONS FROM ARMY TO OTHER SERVICES,
WHICH WAS NOTIFIED TO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND RELEASED TO

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LOCAL PRESS ON DEC 15, HAS RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED PUBLIC
ATTNTION AND ON THE WHOLE FAVORABLE COMMENT. IN ONLY PRESS
COVERAGE TO DATE, PRESS ON DEC 16 REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTION
BY VICE GOVERNOR NOJIMA TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MORE THAN 90
PERCENT OF OVER 1000 OKINAWAN BASE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED WOULD
BE TRANSFERRED WITH SUPPORT MISSIONS TO POSITIONS IN OTHER

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3900 C O N F I D E N T I A L
SERVICES EVEN THOUGH TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES NOT REQUIRED BY
MASTOR LABOR CONTRACT.
3. THIS MAJOR US ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AT A TIME WHEN OKINAWANS
IN GENERAL ARE PREOCCUPIED AND DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER DEPRESSED
STATE AND UNFAVORABLE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF OKINAWAN ECONOMY,
IN PARTICULAR HIGH AND INCREASING RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(CURRENTLY EXCEEDING 6 PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE, 3 TIMES
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MAINLAND JAPAN.) THIS MAJOR REALIGNMENT
OF US FORCE STRUCTURE HAS HAD POTENTIAL OF STIMULATING
SERIOUS ADVERSE OKINAWANS ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONTINUED
PRESENCE OF OUR MILITARY BASES. THAT THIS HAD NOT TRANSPIRED
IS DUE TO POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AND SKILLFUL MANNER IN WHICH
US MILITARY SERVICES ARE CARRYING OUT TRANSFER OF MISSIONS,
HOLDING TO THE BARE MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF OKINAWAN
WORKERS WHO WILL LOSE EMPLOYMENT AT OUR BASES.
KNOWLES

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